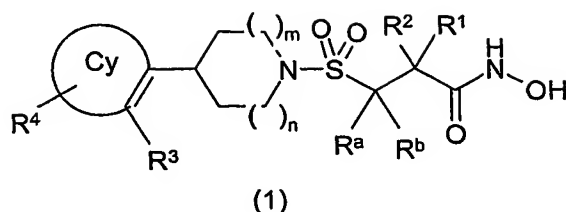


CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (1):



(1)

- 5 wherein:

Cy is an aryl or heteroaryl group;

m is zero or the integer 1, 2 or 3;

n is zero or the integer 1, 2 or 3; in which the sum of m and n is zero or the integer 1, 2 or 3;

- 10 R¹ is a group selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocycloalkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, -C₁₋₆alkylaryl, -C₁₋₆alkylheteroaryl, -C₁₋₆alkylheterocycloalkyl or -C₁₋₆alkylC₃₋₆cycloalkyl, in which each aryl or heteroaryl group, present as or as part of the group R¹, may optionally be substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from the group R⁷, wherein each R⁷ may be the same or different, and is
- 15 an atom or group selected from F, Cl, Br, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆haloalkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, C₁₋₆haloalkoxy, -CN, -CO₂R^{7a}, -CON(R^{7a})₂ or -COR^{7a}; and in which each alkyl, heterocycloalkyl or cycloalkyl group, present as or as part of the group R¹, may optionally be substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from the group R⁸, wherein each R⁸ may be the same or different, and is an atom or group selected
- 20 from F, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆haloalkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, C₁₋₆haloalkoxy, =O, =NOR¹⁰, -CO₂R^{8a}, -CON(R^{8a})₂ or -COR^{8a};

R^{7a}, which may be the same or different, is each a hydrogen atom, or a C₁₋₆alkyl or C₁₋₆haloalkyl group;

R^{8a}, which may be the same or different, is each a hydrogen atom, or a

- 25 C₁₋₆alkyl or C₁₋₆haloalkyl group;

R¹⁰ is a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₃alkyl group;

R² is a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₃alkyl group;

or R^1 and R^2 together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl or heterocycloalkyl group optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from the group R^9 , wherein each R^9 may be the same or different, and is an atom or group selected from F, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} haloalkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} haloalkoxy, $=O$, $=NOR^{10}$, $-CO_2R^{8a}$, $-CON(R^{8a})_2$ or $-COR^{8a}$;

R^3 is an atom or group selected from F, Cl, Br, C_{1-3} alkyl, C_{1-3} haloalkyl, C_{1-3} alkoxy, C_{1-3} haloalkoxy or $-CN$;

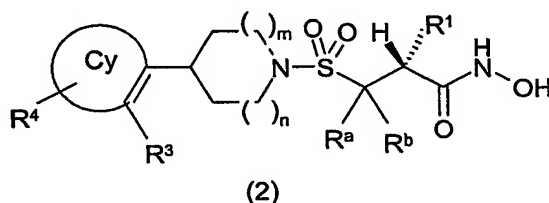
R^4 is a hydrogen, F, Cl or Br atom or a C_{1-3} alkyl, C_{1-3} haloalkyl, C_{1-3} alkoxy, C_{1-3} haloalkoxy, $-CN$, $-SO_2R^5$, $-SO_2N(R^6)_2$, $-CON(R^6)_2$, $-N(R^6)_2$, $-NHCO_2R^5$ or $-NHCOR^5$ group;

R^5 is a C_{1-3} alkyl group;

R^6 , which may be the same or different, is each a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-3} alkyl group; and

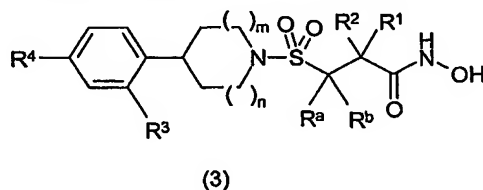
R^a and R^b , which may be the same or different, is each an atom or group selected from hydrogen or C_{1-3} alkyl, or R^a and R^b may be joined to form a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl or heterocycloalkyl group as defined for R^1 and R^2 ; and the salts, solvates, hydrates, tautomers, isomers or *N*-oxides thereof.

2. A compound according to Claim 1 which has the formula (2):



wherein m , n , Cy , R^a , R^b , R^1 , R^3 and R^4 are as defined in Claim 1; and the salts, solvates, hydrates, tautomers, isomers or *N*-oxides thereof.

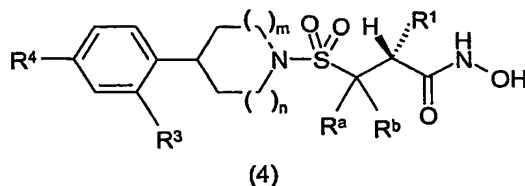
3. A compound according to Claim 1 which has the formula (3):



wherein m , n , R^a , R^b , R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are as defined in Claim 1;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates, tautomers, isomers or *N*-oxides thereof.

4. A compound according to Claim 3 which has the formula (4):



wherein m , n , R^a , R^b , R^1 , R^3 and R^4 are as defined in Claim 1;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates, tautomers, isomers or *N*-oxides thereof.

5. A compound according to Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein Cy is a phenyl group.
6. A compound according to any preceding Claim wherein R^a and R^b is each a hydrogen atom.
7. A compound according to any preceding Claim wherein m is the integer 1 and n is zero or the integer 1.
8. A compound of any preceding Claim in which n is the integer 1.
9. A compound of any preceding Claim in which R^1 is a group selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, phenyl, heteroaryl, heterocycloalkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_{1-2}$ phenyl, $-(CH_2)_{1-2}$ heteroaryl, $-(CH_2)_{1-2}$ heterocycloalkyl or $-(CH_2)_{1-2}C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, in which each phenyl or heteroaryl group, present as or as part of the group R^1 , may optionally be substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from the group R^7 , as defined in Claim 1; and in which each alkyl, heterocycloalkyl or cycloalkyl group, present as or as part of the group R^1 , may optionally be substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from the group R^8 , as defined in Claim 1.
10. A compound according to any preceding Claim in which R^1 is a group selected from optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, phenyl, heterocycloalkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl or $-(CH_2)_{1-2}$ phenyl.
11. A compound according to any one of Claims 1, 3 or 5 to 8 in which R^1 and R^2 together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from the group R^9 , as defined in Claim 1.
12. A compound according to Claim 11 in which R^1 and R^2 together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a cyclobutyl group.

13. A compound according to any preceding Claim in which R³ is an atom or group selected from F, Cl, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, -CF₃, -CF₂H, methoxy, ethoxy, -OCF₃, -OCF₂H or -CN.

14. A compound according to any preceding Claim in which R⁴ is an atom or group selected from a hydrogen, F or Cl atom or a methyl, -CF₃, methoxy or -OCF₂H group.

15. A compound of any preceding Claim wherein R³ is an atom or group selected from F, Cl, C₁₋₃alkyl or C₁₋₃alkoxy.

16. A compound according to Claim 15 wherein R³ is a C₁₋₃ alkyl or C₁₋₃alkoxy group.

17. A compound according to Claim 15 or Claim 16 wherein R³ is a methyl or methoxy group.

18. A compound which is:

2-[4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperidine-1-sulfonylmethyl]-*N*-hydroxy-3-

methylbutyramide;

2-[4-(2-methyl-4-fluorophenyl)piperidine-1-sulfonylmethyl]-*N*-hydroxy-3-

methylbutyramide;

2-benzyl-*N*-hydroxy-3-[4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperidine-1-sulfonyl]propionamide;

2-benzyl-*N*-hydroxy-3-[4-(2-methylphenyl)piperidine-1-sulfonyl]propionamide;

N-hydroxy-3-[4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperidine-1-sulfonyl]-2-phenylpropionamide;

2(*R*)-[4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperidine-1-sulfonylmethyl]-*N*-hydroxy-3-

methylbutyramide;

2(*R*)-[4-(2-methylphenyl)piperidine-1-sulfonylmethyl]-*N*-hydroxy-3-

methylbutyramide;

1-[4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperidine-1-sulfonylmethyl]cyclobutane carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

1-[4-(2-methylphenyl)piperidine-1-sulfonylmethyl]cyclobutane carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates, tautomers, isomers or *N*-oxides thereof.

19. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients or diluents.